6392530/2022/SEC-IV-EFS01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – A.P. Forest Department - Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests, earlier worked as Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Rajamahendravaram of Rajahmundry Circle - Departmental Proceedings under Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 - Articles of Charges - Issued – Regarding.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.97 **Dated:16.09.2022**

Read the following:

1) Memo.No.4682/Sec.IV/A1/2018-2, EFS & T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 14.11.2018.
2) Memo.No.4682/Sec.IV/A1/2018-3, EFS & T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 14.11.2018.
3) From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-19024/75/2018/Vig-1, dated 02.07.2022.

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O R D E R:

In continuation of the orders issued under Rule 24 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 in the reference 1st read above, it is considered necessary to hold an inquiry against Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests (on leave), earlier worked as Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Rajamahendravaram of Rajahmundry Circle under Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the enquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Articles of Charge (Annexure-I). A statement of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in support of such Articles of Charge is enclosed (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom, the Articles of Charge proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-III and IV).

3. Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests is directed to submit within (10) days of the receipt of this order, a written statement of his defence and also to state whether he desires to heard in person.

4. Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those Articles of Charges as are not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each Article of Charge.

5. Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests is further informed that, if he does not submit his written statement of defence within the time specified in para-3 above, further action will be taken based on the material available.

6. Attention of Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests is invited to Rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another

[P.T.O]

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person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings, it will be presumed that Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of the Articles of Charge should be acknowledged on the duplicate copy enclosed and the said duplicate copy be returned to the undersigned immediately.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests, earlier worked as Divisional Forest officer, Wildlife Management Division, Rajamahendravaram of Rajahmundry Circle (in duplicate). (through PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur).

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur. (He is requested to serve the Government Orders on the Charged Officer, obtain his dated acknowledgment on the duplicate copy and submit the same to Government immediately)
SF/SC (Computer No.1779188)

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI V. PRABHAKARA RAO, ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, EARLIER WORKED AS DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM OF RAJAHMUNDRY CIRCLE.

That the said Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests, earlier worked as Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Rajamahendravaram of Rajahmundry Circle from 23.07.2015 to 14.11.2017, had committed the grave misconduct, irregularities and negligence in the duties by slack supervision of CBET and other works at Chollangi in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary of Wildlife Management Range, Kakinada of WLM Division, Rajamahendravaram as mentioned in the following Articles of Charge.

ARTICLE OF CHARGE - I:

Construction of wooden foot path at CBET., Chollangi :

"That he had shown gross negligent attitude in the duties by slack supervision of woks in construction of wooden foot path at CBET., Chollangi (V), Tallarevu(M) and **i)** Sanctioned the estimates intentionally for execution of the work of wooden foot path at CBET, Chollangi splitting the same into eight separate works indiscriminately to bring the same within the powers of his sanction in violating the Section(99) of A.P. Forest Department Code Vol-I and Government instructions, **ii)** allowed excess expenditure over and above the sanctioned amount **iii)** allowed fabricated and fake bills with forged signatures at higher rates submitted by the Forest Range Officer in connivance with Forest Range Officer and Sri K. Ramakrishna, Saw Mill owner and Sri P. Rambabu, Timber Depot owner, **iv)** failed to monitor and verify the accounts properly for the amounts drawn and the expenditure incurred by the FRO during December, 2015 in respect of Sri Kodanda Rama EDC and Departmental Officials giving scope for misappropriation of Government Money and **v)** intentionally avoided execution of the works by the concerned EDCs and sanctioned the works on departmental execution".

ARTICLE OF CHARGE - II:

Construction of ropeway bridge at Gadimoga :

"That he had sanctioned the estimate on after execution of the work on 04.02.2017 **i)** in construction of Ropeway Bridge at Gadimoga, **ii)** failed to take action against the FRO for drawing huge amounts in advance without execution the work and allowed fabricated bills with forged signatures submitted by the FRO/FSO at higher rates, **iii)** failed to monitor and verify the accounts for the expenditure incurred by FRO in the month of April, 2015".

ARTICLE OF CHARGE – III:

Purchase of Fiber Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Boats :

"That he had caused to purchase of Fiber Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Boats and **i)** allowed fake and fabricated quotations with forged signatures towards purchase of FRP Boats and Reconditioned Engines in connivance with Sri D. Rangadham, owner of M/s. Sri Parvathi Engineering Services, Visakhapatnam and Forest Range Officer, **ii)** approved two comparative statements with different rates submitted by the Forest Range Officer for purchase of reconditioned Engines for FRP Boats, **iii)** allowed purchase of old Boats and got them painted as if new Boats. Also approved for purchase of old reconditioned engines available at higher rates instead of new engines available at lesser rates, causing loss to Government money and that he had

iv) failed to get the registration for the Boats from Kakinada Port Authority for operating the Boats in the Sea".

ARTICLE OF CHARGE – IV:

"That he had failed to check measure the works violating Section 102 (3) of G.O.Ms.No.2, dt.07-01-2004 and released the payments thereof.

That, **Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests, earlier worked as Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Rajamahendravaram of Rajahmundry Circle** by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, discipline and devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a Government servant and thereby contravened Rule-3 (1) of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964. **Hence the charge**".

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS AND MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOR IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI V.PRABHAKARA RAO, ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, EARLIER DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, RAJAHMUNDRY CIRCLE.

That the said Sri V. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Conservator of Forests, earlier worked as Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Rajamahendravaram of Rajahmundry Circle from 23.07.2015 to 14.11.2017, had committed the grave misconduct, irregularities and negligence in the duties by slack supervision of CBET and other works at Chollangi in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary of Wildlife Management Range, Kakinada of WLM Division, Rajamahendravaram as mentioned in the following Articles of Charge.

ARTICLE OF CHARGE - I:

Construction of wooden foot path at CBET., Chollangi :

"That he had shown gross negligent attitude in the duties by slack supervision of woks in construction of wooden foot path at CBET., Chollangi (V), Tallarevu(M) and **i)** Sanctioned the estimates intentionally for execution of the work of wooden foot path at CBET, Chollangi splitting the same into eight separate works indiscriminately to bring the same within the powers of his sanction in violating the Section(99) of A.P. Forest Department Code Vol-I and Government instructions, **ii)** allowed excess expenditure over and above the sanctioned amount **iii)** allowed fabricated and fake bills with forged signatures at higher rates submitted by the Forest Range Officer in connivance with Forest Range Officer and Sri K. Ramakrishna, Saw Mill owner and Sri P. Rambabu, Timber Depot owner, **iv)** failed to monitor and verify the accounts properly for the amounts drawn and the expenditure incurred by the FRO during December, 2015 in respect of Sri Kodanda Rama EDC and Departmental Officials giving scope for misappropriation of Government Money and **v)** intentionally avoided execution of the works by the concerned EDCs and sanctioned the works on departmental execution".

Basis of the charge:-

On a compliant petition made by the Grama Surpanches, MPTCs, EDC Members, MPP and ZPTCs etc., of Tallarevu Mandal of East Godavari District through the Hon'ble Minster for Finance and upon directions issued by the Vigilance Commission of Andhra Pradesh, the Vigilance and Enforcement Department Officials have take up the detailed enquiry regarding misappropriation of Developmental funds in execution of works pertaining to Community Based Eco Tourism(CBET) in Coringa Wildlife Management Sanctuary of Wildlife Management Division, Rajahmundry. The V&E Department has taken up the enquiry along with the officials of Forest Department and the concerned Chairman and Members of Eco Development Committees on the following allegations.

Allegation-1:

The Forest Officials have executed the works through the contractor for their self profits and constructed a foot over wooden bridge in Chollangi Tourism for Rs.36,00,000/- with substandard quality, though the works are to be executed through the Eco Development Committee (EDC).

During the inspection of foot over wooden bridge in Community Based Eco Tourism (CBET) in Chollangi, which is constructed for a total length of 2,290 meters by using the material like jungle wood planks, reapers, Palmyra Bajus, monolithic fencing stone, nails, paints, cement concrete in foundations, etc., and it noticed that,

i) the technical sanctioned orders/revised sanction orders, originally nine works sanctioned with eight estimates costing Rs.69,59,500/- entrusting to Sri Kodandarama EDC, Chollangi and one work costing Rs.6,95,000/- under departmental execution. But while revising the estimates only three works costing Rs.26,86,000/- were entrusted to Sri Kodandarama EDC, Chollangi and five works costing Rs.38,28,500/- were proposed to be taken up by the Forest Department Officials through Departmental execution method.

ii) As per Section 99 of the A.P. Forest Department Code as amended in G.O.Ms.No.2 EFS&T(For.III) Dept., dt.07.01.2004, the powers delegated for sanction of estimates to the Forest Officials in the Department to the various categories is as follows.

1) Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF - No limit
2) Conservator of Forests - Rs.20,00,000/-
3) Divisional Forest Offices - Rs.10,00,000/-
4) Sub- Divisional Forest Officers - Rs.1,00,000/-
5) Forest Range Officers - Rs.50,000/-

Initially the total estimate cost of the wooden bridge is Rs.76,54,500/- and the same was to be sanctioned by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests as per the above norms. But, the Charged Officer split the above work into (9) sanctioned orders indiscriminately and sanctioned each estimate costing below Rs.10-00 lakh to bring the same within the sanctioning powers of the DFO violating Section (99)- Chapter-VIII of the A.P. Forest Dept. Code Vol-I, which stipulates that "**the estimates for works should be prepared based on approved schedule of rates. No expenditure should be incurred without a sanctioned estimate. The estimate should be sanctioned by the competent authority. A single work should not be allowed to be spilt for avoiding sanction from higher authorities**".

iii) As per para 4.3.2 of A.P. State CAMPA guidelines and as per Section 95 (5) of G.O.Ms.No.2, dt.07.01.2004 "Entrustment of works on nomination is limited to Rs.1.00 lakh only. In case of works above Rs.1.00 lakh, the entrustment on nomination to the selected agencies can be resorted if there is no proper response to the call of tenders or in case of extreme urgency like natural calamities, visits of VVIPSs security etc., to be decided by the Conservator of Forests".

Further, as per Section 95 (5) of G.O.Ms.No.2, dt.07.01.2004, the following are the powers of different Forest Officers for "entrustment of works on Nomination" at estimated rates.

Sl. No.	Designation	Sanction limit in Rs.
1	2	3
1	Forest Section Officer and Deputy Range Officer	25,000/-
2	Forest Range Officer	50,000/-
3	Sub- Divisional Forest Officer	1,00,000/-
4	Divisional Forest Officer	3,00,000/-
5	Conservator of Forests	5,00,000/-
6	Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests	10,00,000/-

The Charged Officer had entrusted the above three works costing Rs.7,70,000/-, Rs.9,96,000/- and Rs.9,20,000/- (total Rs.26,86,000/-) respectively, to Sri Kodanda Rama EDC., Chollangi beyond his power of entrusting on nomination i.e., Rs.3.00 lakh limit as amended in G.O.Ms.No.2, EFS&T (For.III) Dept., dated 07.01.2004, which is against to guidelines of nomination of works issued as per Para 4.3.2 of the A.P. State CAMPA as well as amendment issued to Section 95 (5) of APFC. Further, the Charged Officer did not conclude any agreements with the EDC for the above three works entrusted to Sri Kodandarama, EDC, Chollangi.

iv) The total expenditure claimed for construction of the wooden bridge is Rs.65,29,883/-. As per the measurement book (M. Book), the work was executed and payments were made between September, 2015 and December, 2015. But, out of nine estimates originally sanctioned, eight estimates were sanctioned by the Charged Officer during the month of November, 2015 i.e., after commencement work and that after release of payments in the month of November, 2015. This clearly shows the malpractice attitude and violation of norms of the A.P. Forest Department Code as well as Circular instructions issued by the Prl.CCF in Ref.no.34670/2010/CAMPA-M3, dt.21.01.2010 wherein it is ordered that "the officers should ensure that no works are taken up without recording the check measurement particulars in M. Books and passing the bills". The total cost of the wooden bridge at Chollangi is Rs. 65.00 lakh above and the Prl.CCF has to accord the Sanction Order for the said work. But the same was split into (8) estimate each costing below Rs.10.00 lakh with malafide intention so as to bring the same into the sanctioning powers of the DFO(Charged Officer) which is violation of above stated Rules and procedure.

v) Also, as verified from the expenditure particulars an amount of Rs.8,47,000/- was spent against the estimate provision of Rs.7,70,000/- with an excess of Rs.77,000/- over the sanctioned estimate amount. But no permission was taken from the competent authority i.e., Conservator of Forests by the Charged Officer (next higher authority as per para 105 of AP Forest Department Code Vol-I (Chapter-VIII) for the expenditure incurred over and above the estimate sanctioned amount.

vi) The Forest Range Officer, Forest Section Officer and the Chairman of EDC concerned had drawn the lump sum amounts for the payment of purchased material and for labour work from their accounts, but the payments to traders were made through vouchers without issuing cheques. Thus, the Charged Officer had allowed the staff to issue cheques and commit the irregularities.

vii) On verification of the records, it is observed that the works were taken up and payments were made prior to sanction of the estimates on 30.09.2015 and revised estimates sanctioned in the month of November, 2015. But on verification of vouchers reveled that an amount of Rs.4,56,000/- i.e., 1) Rs.1,82,526/- (10 vouchers) against the Sanction Order no.33/2015, 2) Rs.1,76,874/- (9 vouchers) against the Sanction Order no. 34/2015 and 3) Rs.96,600/- (4 vouchers) against the Sanction Orders no.35/2015 was allowed to paid by the Charged Officer and by the EDC on 23.09.2015 itself prior to sanction of the estimates /revision of estimates violating the APFD Code Vol-I and Circular instructions of the Prl.CCF issued in Ref.no.34670/2010/ CAMPA-M3, dated 21.01.2010.

viii) During verification of the records, it is clear that the Charged Officer has permitted to split all the bills into Rs.23,000/- each (i.e., below Rs.25,000/- each) to avoid check measurement by the FRO and DFO. However, even those bills are not test checked by the FRO and DFO as per the norms. Further, it is also noticed that the Charged Officer did not check measure the woks at least 30% of the value of the work and above and also

he failed to get the check measurements Register maintained by the Forest Section Officer or Forest Range Officer. Thus, it is obvious that the Charged Officer herein has failed to procedure of check measurement of works as prescribed under Section 102(3) of the A.P. Forest Department Code as amended in G.O.Ms.No.2 EFS&T (For.III) Dept, dt.07.01.2004.

ix) The V&E Officials have also observed that as per CAMPA guidelines under item no. 5.1 and Section 105 of G.O.Ms.No.2 EFS&T(For.III) Dept, dt.07.01.2004 that the "power for passing of bills for making payment on account" of work done or supplies made by the contractors / piece workers up to the following limits on any single bill.

i) DFO - Above Rs.50,000/-
ii) FRO - Rs.50,000/-
iii) DRO/FSO - Rs.25,000/-

In respect of works up to Rs.1.00 lakh, payments for all the bills passed by the FSO/ FRO for these works shall be made by the Forest Range Officer by cheque. In respect of works value of which is more than Rs.1.00 lakh, payments should be made only by the Divisional Forest Officer. But, all the bills passed by the Forest Section Officer were paid in cash only. The Charged Officer has given scope to the Forest Range Officer and his other staff and failed to monitor the proper system of accounting in this regard.

As a part of verification of the record, the V&E Officials have verified the Bank Account no. 034710100047947 of the Forest Range Officer, Wildlife Management Range, Kakinada for the period from 25.08.2015 to 24.06.2016 and noticed that the Forest Range Officer, WLM Range, Kakinada has issued bearer cheques to Sri M.Steven, Sri V. Vishnu Murthy who are working as Range Assistants(out sourcing) and Sri T. Raja Babu, Sri P. Rambabu and Sri M. Tarakeswara Rao who are said to have executed the works and issued self cheques with huge amounts on the same day and drawn the amounts from joint account No. 057410100061901 through Sri V. Venkanna, Chairman of Sri Kodanda Rama EDC from 21-04-2015 to 28-03-2016 violating Section 105 of G.O.Ms.No.2, dt. 07-01-2004. Thus, it is clear that the Forest Range officer has issued cheques beyond his limit and it is happened due to lack of supervision of the Charged Officer in this case.

x) The monthly account for the month of December, 2015 in Form FA-IX executed departmentally was rendered by the Forest Range Officer for an amount of Rs.40,88,420/- as against the actual drawn amount of Rs.44,35,000/- which shows the Forest Range Officer did not account for the amount drawn. Similarly, it is also observed that the monthly account in December, 2015 in Form FA-IX for the amount drawn for the works executed by Sri Kodanda Rama, EDC was submitted for **Rs.23,44,319/-** as against actual amount of **Rs.24,89,368/-** which shows the Forest Section Officer and Forest Range Officer have flouted the Rules as stipulated in the A.P. Financial Code as well as other instructions issued by the higher authorities in accounting procedure. This is clearly indicates that the unaccounted money is kept as cash on hand without depositing in the Bank. Hence, there is a clear misappropriation of Government money, which is taken place in this works due to negligence of Delinquent Officer in this case.

xi) Regarding procurement of material for the constructions of wooden bridge, following lapses have been observed.

A) <u>Procurement of wooden planks and Reapers</u>:

a) Wooden planks required for construction of foot over wooden bridge were procured from M/s. Ramakrishna Mechanized Wood Works Saw Mill, Kakinada. The wooden planks were procured in the name of Sri Kodanda

Rama EDC, Chollangi with the specification in the bill as "49.212 X 6" X1.25 size Marujathi wooden planks at the rate of Rs.23,000/- per cum". Payments were made at Rs.23,000/- each time in many spells on the same date to Sri K. Ramakrishna, Owner of M/s. Ramakrishna Mechanized Wood Works Saw Mill.

b) In the bill, the specification is mentioned as "49.212 x 6" x1.25 size Marujathi wooden planks at the rate of Rs.23,000/- per cum" which indicates that the owner of the firm had to supply wooden planks of that size as finished product. But he charged for cutting and conversion for wooden planks separately as tabulated below which are an excess.

D.S.O. no.	As per estimate		As per vouchers			
	Quantity cum	Amount @7000/ cum	Quantity Cum	Amount @7000/ cum	Bill nos.	Date
33A/2015	11.00	77,000	12.3	86,100	9,8,7,6,5	17.10.15
34A/2015	13.70	95,900	13.67	95,900	4,13,12, 11,10	18.10.15
35A/2015	13.10	91,700	13.10	91,700	17,16,48 ,15	19.10.15
41A/2015	13.30	93,100	13.30	93,100	77,76,80 ,79,8	25.11.15
43A/2015	8.87	62,090	8.87	62,090	10,11,12	25.11.15
45A/2016	13.70	95,900	13.70	95,900	29,30,31 ,32,33	28.11.15
46A/2015	7.82.	54,740	7.82	54,740	46,47,48	28.11.15
57/2015	9.67	67,690	9.67	67,690	59,60,61 ,98	02.12.15
TOTAL		**6,38,120**		**6,47,220**		

c) Procurement of Reapers for fastening the wooden planks:

D.S.O. no.	As per estimate		As per vouchers			
	Quantity in nos.	Cost @ Rs.35/cum	Quantity in nos.	Cost @ Rs.35/cum	Bill nos.	Date
33.A/2015	546	19,110	620	23,043	39	17.10.15
34.A/2015	680	23,800	680	27,059	37	18.10.15
35.A/2015	650	22,750	624	22,730	87	02.11.15
41.A/2015	660	23,100	660	27,014	85	25.11.15
43.A/2015	440	15,400	440	15,400	14	25.11.15
45.A/2016	680	23,800	680	27,487	34	28.11.15
46.A/2015	388	13,580	388	13,580	49	28.11.15
57./2015	480	16,800	480	23,573	64	2.11.15
TOTAL	**4,524**	**1,58,340**	**4,572**	**1,79,886**		

d) <u>Transportation charges for jungle wood planks from Ramanayyapeta to Chollangi CBET including loading and unloading charges</u>:

D.S.O. no.	As per estimate		As per vouchers			
	Quantity in cum	Amount (As per actual)	Quantity in cum	Amount (As per actual	Bill No	Date
33.A/2015	11.00	5,000	..			
34.A/2015	13.70	5,000	..			
35.A/2015	13.10	5,000	..			
41.A/2015	13.30	5,000	LS	5000	81	25.11.15
43.A/2015	8.87	5,000	..	5000	13	25.11.15
45.A/2016	13.70	5,000	..	5700	28	28.11.15
46.A/2015	7.82	5,000	..			

57./2015	9.67	5,000	..			
TOTAL		**25,000**		**15,700**		

e) Transportation charges for reaper from Ramanayyapeta to Chollangi CBET including loading and unloading charges as per the provisions made in the sanctioned estimate. The details are tabulated below:

D.S.O. no.	As per estimate		As per vouchers			
	Quantity in cum	Amount (As per actual)	Quantity in cum	Amount (As per actual	Bill no.	Date
33.A/2015		6,000	..	6,000	4	17.10.15
34.A/2015		6,000	..	6,000	36	18.10.15
35.A/2015		6,000	..	6,000	88	02.11.15
41.A/2015		6,000	..	6,000	83	25.11.15
43.A/2015		6,000	..	6,000	14	25.11.15
45.A/2016		6,000	..	6,000	35	28.11.15
46.A/2015		6,000	..	6,000	49	28.11.15
57./2015		6,000	..	6,000	64	02.12.15
TOTAL				**48,000**		

f) An amount of Rs.30,17,366/- was claimed towards purchase of wooden planks of 15,387 nos. reaper 4,572 nos. cutting charges and transportation charges by submitting forged bills on the empty bills obtained from Sri Ramakrishna Mechanized Wood Works, Kakinada. Actually the empty bills meant for use of cutting charges only not for selling material.

g) Sri K. Ramakrishna, Owner of M/s. Sri Ramakrishna Mechanized Wood Works, Kakinada obtained the Forest license no.1694/1999- P2, under A.P. Saw Mill (Regulations) Rules, 1969, to run a Vertical Saw of 16 HP and to cut the exempted timber wood only like Vepa, Kanuga, Coconut and Palymarah (Tati), etc. But the Saw Mill owner Sri K. Ramakrishna had issued empty bill book meant for cutting charges to the Forest Officials, and that the Charged Officer allowed the staff to use the bills to claim for the cost of purchased material.

h) The following vouchers were prepared that all payments were made to Sri T. Ramakrishna by cheque.

D.S.O. no.	As per estimate		As per vouchers	
	Bill nos.	Date	Amount paid	Payment was made by cheque no.
33.A/2015	1 to 10, 18 to 25 & 39	17.10.2015	398043	742985/ 29.12.2015
34.A/2015	27,29,31,30,32,33,35,41,42, 43,45,46,28,65,14,13,12,11, 38,37,36	18.10.2015	444059	742986/ 29.12.2015
35.A/2015	64,63,62,58,59,57,53,52,51, 50,49,47, 26,17,16,48,15,66,67,68	19.10.2015, 18.10.2015 & 2.11.2015	421730	742989/ 30.12.2015
41.A/2015	63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71, 72,73,74,75,77,76,80,79,81, 82,83,54	25.11.2015	437014	372403/ 25.11.2015
43.A/2015	1 to 14	25.11.2015	292500	372404/ 25.11.2015
45.A/2016	15 to 35,56	28.11.2015	450187	372405/ 28.11.2015
46.A/2015	36,38,39,40,41 to 49	28.11.2015	254160	372406/ 30.12.2015

57./2015	50 to 56, 57,58,59,60,61,62, 98, 64,61,81	01.12.2015	319673	01/ 30.12.2015
		TOTAL	**30,17,366**	

In this regard, as verified from the bank statements of Forest Range Officer and Kanaka Durga EDC., the amounts said to have paid to Sri K. Ramakrishna, Mechanized Wood Works, Kakinada by cheques were actually drawn by the following persons.

DSO. No.	Cheque no. and date	Amount in Rs.	Amount drawn by
1	2	3	4
Cheques issued by EDC Chairman and FSO			
33 A/2015	742985/29-12-2015	6,31,700	V. Venkanna, Chairman of Kodandarama EDC
34 A/2015	742986/29-12-2015	4,68,200	V. Venkanna, Chairman of Kodandarama EDC
35 A/2015	742989/30-12-2015	6,14,000	V. Venkanna, Chairman of Kodandarama EDC
Cheques issued by the FRO			
41 A/2015	372403/25-11-2015	50,000	G. Durga Rao
43 A/2015	372404/25-11-2015	50,000	R. Ramadasu
45 A/2015	372405/28-11-2015	5,15,000	V.V. Murthy
46 A/2015	372406/02-12-2015	2,76,000	Ramakrishna MWW, Kakinada
57/2015	01/ 06-12-2015	5,00,000	V.V. Murthy
	Total	**31,04,900**	

On inquiry with Sri M. Steven and Sri V. Vishnu Murthy on 19.05.2015 and 26.05.2015 by the V&E Officials regarding huge amounts drawn by them, they informed that they have been working as Range Assistants (out sourcing) in the O/o the Forest Range Office, WLM Range, Kakinada from the last eight years to assist the Range Officer in all Office correspondence. In this connection, the Range Officer generally issues counter signed bearer cheques on their name and they withdrawn the amounts and handover the amount to the Forest Range officer. The above self cheques were also withdrawn by them. It clearly shows that the amounts were drawn in cash through the self cheques but recorded the vouchers as if the payments were made by cheque to M/s. Ramakrishna Mechanized Wood Works, Kakinada.

i) As per Section 99.5.a of the APFD Code and as per instructions of PCCF in Circular memo. Ref.no.34670/2010/CAMPA-M3, dated 21.01.2010, for all works costing Rs.5,000/- and above, payment shall have to be made only by cheque. But herein all the payments were made on the above work by Sri Venkanna, Chairman of Sri Kodanda Rama EDC, Chollangi and the Forest Section Officer and the Forest Range Officer, Wildlife Management, Kakinada are in cash, intentionally violating the norms. Hence, the Charged Officer is responsible for the lapses.

j) Sri K. Rama Krishna, Owner of M/s. Rama Krishna Mechanized Wood Works Sawmill, Kakinada was examined on 30.05.2017 regarding genuineness of the bills given by him towards supply of the wooden planks to the Forest Department Officials towards construction of the wooden bridge. He informed that:

a) Regarding payments of Rs.30,17,366/- made to him towards supply of Marujathi wooden planks to Forest Department Officials, he supplied only Rs.2,76,000/- worth Marujathi wooden planks at the rate of Rs.650/- per cft. including the cost of transportation and reapers to Forest Department Officials. The amount was received through a

cheque no.372406 and the same was deposited in his Syndicate Bank, Vakalapudi Branch Account Number 33581400000074. He did not give any receipt through the bill book towards the above to Forest Department Officials.

b) As per the request of the Forest Department Officials he given empty bill book of his firm which is meant "for the cutting charges" in his saw mill as the Forest Department Officials are the licensing authority to his saw mill. The Forest Department Officials fabricated and signed the bills for the remaining amount. He did not sign the bills and no clerk is available in his sawmill to sign the bills.

B) <u>Procurement of Palmyrah Bajus for the construction of the wooden bridge.</u>

1) As verified from the vouchers, the Palmyrah Bajus with a length of 6 Mts. (5X4") were purchased from M/s. Durga Ravulamma Timber Depot, Jaggampeta (V) and (M) for a quantity of (771) no. with a cost of Rs.500/- per each Baju during September, November and December of 2015. An amount of Rs.3,85,500/- towards cost of Bajus for a quantity of 771 nos. (6 m x 5 x 3"), Rs.31,850/- towards transportation charges for Palmyrah Bajus from Jaggampeta to CBET., Chollangi including loading & unloading charges, totaling of Rs.4,17,350/- was paid.
2) The Forest Officials had claimed Rs.4,16,850/- towards purchase and transportation charges for (771) nos. of Palmyrah Baju charges by submitting forged bills obtained as empty bills from Sri Durga Ravulamma Timber Depot, Jaggampeta.
3) The vouchers were recorded that Rs.1,77,000/- was made by cash on 23.09.2015, Rs.1,97,350/- was made by cheque no.372402 on 25.11.2015, Rs.42,500/- was made cheque no.7 on 30.12.2015.
4) It is observed from the Bank Account no.034710100047947 of Forest Range Officer, Wildlife Management, Kakinada that an amount of Rs.13,85,000/- was drawn by Sri M. Steven, Range Assistant in cheque no.372402 on 25.11.2015 which is said to have paid to Sri P. Rambabu, Owner of Durga Ravulamma Timber Depot, Jaggampeta.
5) It is also observed that the payments were made to Sri P. Rambabu in the month of September and November, 2015. In December, 2015 Rs.42,500/- was only paid vide bill no.70 and 71. But, it is observed from the Bank Account no. 034710100047947 of Forest Range Officer, Wildlife Management Range, Kakinada that Sri P. Rambabu had drawn an amount of Rs.2,92,000/- in cheque no.02 to 07 on 22.12.2015 and an amount of Rs.1,40,000/- in cheque no.372407, 372408 and 372409 on 16.12.2015 which clearly shows there is no similarity appeared in between the amounts drawn and vouchers prepared.
6) As per Section 99-5 (a) of the APFD Code and as per instructions of PCCF in Circular memo. Ref.no.34670/2010/CAMPA-M3, dated 21.01.2010, for all works costing Rs.5,000/- and above, payment shall have to be made only by cheque. But all the payments made on the above works by Sri Venkanna, Chairman of Sri Konda Rama EDC, Chollangi, the FSO and the Forest Range Officer, Wildlife Management, Kakinada in cash, intentionally violating the norms.
7) Sri P. Ram Babu, Owner of Durga Ravulamma Timber Depot, Jaggampeta was examined on 15.05.2015 regarding the genuineness of the bill supplied on his firm name. He informed that:

i) He has been running Sawmill since 1998 by getting forest license in the name of Sri Venkata Durga Sawmill. The exempted wood species like Vepa, Coconut, Tumma and Mamidi are being converted into various sizes in his sawmill by charging Rs.60/- per cubic feet and accordingly the bill is being issued for cutting charges only.

ii) He has been running timber depot also since 1998 by getting commercial license for selling exempted species like Tati (Palmyrah) Vepa (Neem), Coconut etc., and accordingly the bill is being issuing for sold material.

iii) The Forest Department Officials of WLM Range, Kakinada have approached him and said that the work of wooden bridge would be constructed by using Palmyrah Bajus and for purchasing Palmyrah Bajus, an empty bill book is necessary for drawing amount. The Depot owner has stated that as the Forest Officials are licensing authorities and as such he had given an empty bill book. But, he had not supplied any material as mentioned in the bills and he did not sign on any bill. The Forest Officials themselves had fabricated and signed the bills in the empty bill book which he had given.

iv) He usually purchase the Teak trees from nearby formers and sell by issuing the bills and he admitted his fault of selling teak wood without getting forest license.

C. <u>Procurement of Monolithic fencing stones:</u>

Provision was made in the estimates towards procurement of Monolithic fencing stones of size 1.80x0.15x0.15 Mts. Payments were made through vouchers and bills to the supplier. As per V & E report, it is observed that:

i) 2,299 monolithic fencing stones against the estimate provision of 2,062 having measurements of 1.80 x1.50 x 0.15 Mts. each were purchased in the months of September and November of 2015 from Sri Srinivasa Gramabhivruddi Committee, Ananthagiri of Kodada Village of Nalgonda Mandal for an amount of Rs.9,19,600/- at Rs.400/- per each stone including transportation charges.

ii) Bills with repeated numbers in haphazard manner i.e., later bills with earlier date were observed which indicates that the bills were fabricated by the Charged Officer and his staff.

iii) Sri Nakirikanti Sundar Rao, S/o. Chinna Veeraswamy and two others of Anantagiri (V) and (M) of Nalgonda District from whom the monolithic fencing stones were reported to have obtained was examined by the officials of Vigilance & Enforcement Department. He informed that:

a) They have been supplying monolith fencing stones on an order for the last seven years. Accordingly, he had supplied about 2300 No. of fencing stones to the Forest Officials of WLM Range, Kakinada at a rate of Rs.300/- per each stone including transportation charges as he has having Lorry bearing no. A.P. 16 TT- 9824.

b) For this purpose, he had given an empty receipt book of Sri Srinivasa Gramabhivruddi Committee, Ananthagiri which is being used for collecting "aaseal" for transportation of stones from quarry area. The writing and signing on the receipts are not written by them.

c) On comparison, the signature on his statement is not tallying with the signatures on the receipt bills.

Being the Head of the Division, the Delinquent in this case is held responsible for tampering and fabrication of records as pointed out above with malafide intention and misappropriated the Government funds. Had the V&E Officials have not taken the inspection and not verified the works in the field, the lapses / irregularities misappropriation of funds would have not come into light. **Hence, the charge.**

<u>ARTICLE OF CHARGE - II</u>:

<u>Construction of ropeway bridge at Gadimoga</u> :

"That he had sanctioned the estimate on after execution of the work on 04.02.2017 **i)** in construction of Ropeway Bridge at Gadimoga, **ii)** failed to take action against the FRO for drawing huge amounts in advance without

execution the work and allowed fabricated bills with forged signatures submitted by the FRO/FSO at higher rates, **iii)** failed to monitor and verify the accounts for the expenditure incurred by FRO in the month of April, 2015".

Basis of the charge:-
Allegation-2:

The Forest Department Officials had drawn the amount from all EDCs without doing any works and drawn an amount of Rs. 5,00,000/- from the account of Sri Kanaka Durga E.D.C in December, 2015 for the work of construction of wooden bridge in Gadimoga Village of Tallarevu Mandal without execution the said work.

The following irregularities and misuse of funds are noticed in this case.

Observations:

1. The estimate for "construction of Rope Way Bridge in Gadimoga Village of Tallarevu Mandal" was sanctioned on 04.02.2017 by the DFO., Wildlife Management, Rajamahendravaram in DSO. no.100/2016. But the Delinquent had get an amount of Rs.5,20,000/- drawn on 04.02.2016 nearly one year in advance through Sri T. Raja Babu who is said to be contractor for the work violating the codal rules and Government instructions.
2. Construction of the Rope Way Bridge at Gadimoga(V) is for a total length of (40) meters by using the material of steel wire rope, M.S. Angles, wooden planks of 1.25 x 0.20 x 0.20 Mts. size besides labour charges for fixing, welding the rope way, paints, concrete cement in foundations, etc., It is noticed that the vouchers were prepared as if payments were done to the various people for different type of work. The details are tabulated in Annexure-11 of V&E report.
3. The work was carried out and the vouchers were recorded in 3/15 and 4/15 and pass order was also made by the Forest Section Officer in the M. Book without any date and estimate Sanction Order no. The estimate was sanctioned on 04.02.2017 and recorded as DSO. no.100/2016 which is not correct.
4. The vouchers were recorded in M. Book from pages (1) to (21) of MB.no.47/2015 from 02.03.2016 to 31.03.2016. As verified from the M. Book pages, the recorded measurements were not signed by Forest Beat Officer (FBO), but checked by the Forest Section Officer and pass order was also made by the FSO. The measurements were not even authenticated by the authorized person of Sri Kanaka Durga EDC., Gadimoga. Further, it was also observed that the work was not check measured by Forest Range Officer and Divisional Forest Officer (Charged Officer) so far.
5. The quantity and unit for the cost of PVC piles (item 4) was proposed as (120) cum. and vouchers were also recorded in the M. Book with the same specification and unit, which is absurd. The unit for the pipes should be in Rmt. as per the specifications.
6. The Chairman of Sri Kanaka Durga EDC, Gadimoga and the Forest Section Officer have made payment of Rs.5,20,000/- on 30.04.2016 in cheque no.743456 of Joint A/c.no.057410100081066 of Andhra Bank, Tallarevu to Sri T. Raja Babu who reported to have executed the above work. But the expenditure is not accounted for as per the schedule docket work vouchers in Form FA-IX for the month of December-2016. Further, the cheque was not deposited in the account of Sri T. Raja Babu. He cleared the above cheque on cash payment.
7. For the materials like PVC pipes and MS channels, voucher payments are to be made based on the purchase bills. But in the present case voucher payments were made without any bills. The remaining purchased materials viz., steel wire rope, MS Angles are obtain from

Vijaya Enterprises, Ramanayyapeta, Kakinada, wooden planks of 1.25x0.20x0.20 Mts. size are obtain from Sri Durga Ravulamma Timber Depot, Jaggampeta and welding the rope way was done by Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Engineering Works, Yeleswaram on cash bills. But the total payment of Rs.5,20,000/- was made to Sri T. Raja Babu who is the owner of Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Engineering Works, Yeleswaram, which is not correct.

From the above, it is clear that he had no control over the staff and failed to monitor the work and released the Government funds to the staff without any estimation and he did not inspect the works in the field and thus, he has given scope to inspect the works by the inspecting agency in the field. The he has also failed to monitor and verify the accounts for the expenditure incurred by FRO in the month of April, 2015. Hence, the DFO., WLM Division, Rajahmundry (Charged Officer) is solely responsible for the lapses and loss of Government money. **Hence, the charge.**

ARTICLE OF CHARGE – III:
Purchase of Fiber Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Boats :

"That he had caused to purchase of Fiber Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Boats and **i)** allowed fake and fabricated quotations with forged signatures towards purchase of FRP Boats and Reconditioned Engines in connivance with Sri D. Rangadham, owner of M/s. Sri Parvathi Engineering Services, Visakhapatnam and Forest Range Officer, **ii)** approved two comparative statements with different rates submitted by the Forest Range Officer for purchase of reconditioned Engines for FRP Boats, **iii)** allowed purchase of old Boats and got them painted as if new Boats. Also approved for purchase of old reconditioned engines available at higher rates instead of new engines available at lesser rates, causing loss to Government money and that he had **iv)** failed to get the registration for the Boats from Kakinada Port Authority for operating the Boats in the Sea".

Basis of the charge:-
Allegation- 3:

Drawn the amount of Rs.25,00,000/- by submitting false bills and fabricated the old Boats by repairing and painting it as new one.

As per report of the V&E Officials, the DFO., WLM., Rajamahendravaram has committed the following grave irregularities in this charge.

1. M/s. Sri Parvathi Engineering Services, Visakhapatnam, M/s. Sri Satyanarayana Engineering Works, Visakhapatnam and M/s. Anasuya Boat Builder, Tallarevu have submitted quotations for construction and supply of Fiber Reinforced Plastic (FRP) passenger boat of size 11x3x1.8 meters and for cost of reconditioned engine ALM 400 or equivalent propeller, shaft stern tube, bushes coupling and other accessories on 18.10.2015. The details of rates (in rupees) are tabulated below.

Item	Sri Parvathi Engineering Services, Visakhapatnam			M/s. Sri Satyanarayana Engineering Works, Visakhapatnam				M/s. Anasuya Boat Builder, Talllarevu	
FRP Boat	Rate	Vat 5%	Amount	Rate	Vat 14.5%	amount	Rate	Vat 14.5 %	amount
	900000	45,000	9,45,000	13,50,000	195750	1545750	152550	221198	1746698
Reconditione	Rate	Vat 5%	amount	Rate	Vat 14.5%	amount	Rate	Vat 14.5 %	amount

d engine	600000	30000	630000	850000	123250	973250	775500	112448	887948

2. The Forest Range Officer, WLM Range, Kakinada had submitted the comparative statement to the Divisional Forest Officer on 01.12.2015. On which, the DFO had approved the lowest bidder as M/s. Sri Parvathi Engineering Services. Subsequently, on the same day another comparative statement was submitted by FRO for DFOs approval of the lowest bid, with differed rates for reconditioned engine from that of the above in case of Sri Satyanarayana Engineering Works, Visakhapatnam and Anasuya Boat Builder, Tallarevu and mentioned as Rs.6,82,000/- (Rs.6,50,000/- + Rs.32,500/- @ 5% VAT) and Rs.7,03,500/- (Rs.6,70,000/- + Rs.33,500/- - @ 5% VAT) respectively without any supporting quotations. The second comparative statement was also approved by the DFO with Sri Parvathi Engineering Services being the lowest bidder. As per A.P.VAT Act-2005, ships and other vessels are enumerated under item no.56 of schedule 4 which attracts 5% VAT on the price of the item as per Act no.11 of 2012 dt.20.04.2012 w.e.f. 14.09.2011. However, the firm Sri Parvathi Engineering Services stood lowest with a rate of Rs.9.45 lakh for each boat and rate of **Rs.6.3 lakh** for each reconditioned engine inclusive of 5% VAT.
3. The DFO., WLM, Rajahmundry has approved the same on 01.12.2015 recommending for approving the lowest rate of Rs. 9.45 lakh for Boat and the lowest quoted rate of Rs.6.3 lakh for engine inclusive of taxes by Sri Parathi Engineering Services, Visakhapatnam. Accordingly, Rs.9.45 lakh for each Boat and Rs. 6.30 lakh for each Engine was sanctioned for each passenger Boats in DSO.nos. 58, 59, 60 and 61/2015 on 01.12.2015.

Accordingly, two boats were built by M /s. Sri Parvathi Engineering Services, Visakhapatnam and issued Builders Certificate on 24.12.2015 by conducting survey and inspection by Vizag Marine Consultants (Noval, Architects & Marine Engineers), Visakhapatnam on 02.12.2015. Payments were made for Rs.9.45 lakh for each boat by issuing Cheque no. 594364 and 594366 and Rs.6.3 lakh for each reconditioned engine through cheques bearing nos. 594365 and 594367.

4. On the request of the DFO., WLM., Rajamahendravaram, dt.11/2015, the VIZAG MARINE CONSULTANTS inspected the two boats namely "Indian Soloman" and "Sea Bass" at Yard no.3, near Bheemili, Visakhapatnam on 01.12.2015 to ascertain the general condition of FRP hull mechanized boats referred by the DFO and submitted the survey report/inspection reports on 02.12.2015 in Ref.no. VMC/15-16/DFO-RJY/P 020 & 021 dt.02.12.2015 respectively. They certified duly mentioning the specifications of the two boats that

"the side and deck planking's are having sufficient strength to carry out their intended operations. Internal and external frames and brackets observed are in good condition. The leakages are satisfactory inside the tanks. Main Engine and associated propulsion system was carried out in their presence and the main engine was satisfactory".

5. Further, the Forest Departmental Officials have got the prime value of two boats and engines assessed by Sri M.R.C. Murthy, Surveyor & Loss Assessor, Visakhapatnam who attended and inspected two boats at Jaggannaipur Bridge, Kakinada on 19th April-2015 and assessed the value of Rs.9.00 lakh for each boat and Rs.6.00 lakh for main engine, gearbox, propulsion system and electrical system for insurance purpose. But the Forest Department Officials failed to furnish the registration certificate from Port authority during inspection.

6. During inspection, it is ascertained that the Forest Department Officials have not submitted the proposals for registration of the above two boats in Kakinada Port Authority.
7. The Officials of Vigilance & Enforcement Department have obtained the present market rates from the Boat manufactures of M/s. Ayyappa Boat Builders, Kakinada and M/s. Sri Venkata Lakshmi Boat Builders, Kakinada. As per the present rates the cost of the Boat is Rs.17,37,000/- (as given by Sri Venkatalakshmi Boat Builders) and Rs.15,40,000/- (as given by Ayyappa Boat Builders). Also the V&E Department Officials have obtained the present market rates for new Ashok Leyland 180 HP engine is Rs.3,04,000/- inclusive of tax.
8. Sri D. Rangadham, owner of M/s. Sri Parvathi Engineering Services informed that:
   i) He has been constructing and repairing the boats since 1998 and supplied for various departments viz., Navy, Cost Guard, A.P. Tourism, Orissa Pollution Control Board, etc., on tender basis. But the officials of Forest Department, East Godavari District did not call for tenders for supply of boats.
   ii) The Forest Department Officials of East Godavari District instructed him to supply three quotations for construction of new body with old engine. Hence he got the quotations prepared in the names of M/s. Sri Satyanarayana Engineering Works, Visakhapatnam and M/s. Anasuya Boat Builder, Tallarevu with 14.5% VAT duly showing less amount in his quotation with 5% VAT as per the instructions of the Forest Department Officials and submitted the same to the DFO., WLM Division, Rajamahendravaram.
   iii) Accordingly, being the lowest bidder he got the old Engines fixed to the boats at Visakhapatnam and were shifted to Kakinada based on the oral instructions of the Forest Department Officials. But no agreement was concluded and no work order was issued by the Forest Department Officials.
   iv) He purchased two numbers of the old Ashok Leyland Engines at Rs.1.20 lakh each and overhauling, steering, propeller, stern tube, bushes, etc., with Rs.2.10 lakh for each engine with total cost of Rs.3.30 lakh for each engine, but, he has unable to show the invoice or bills. Amount was paid through cheques at Rs.6.30 lakh for each engine and Rs.9.45 lakh for each boat.
   v) Regarding safety of the boat with the old engine he stated that he had supplied the same as per the instructions of the DFO., WLM Division, Rajamahendravaram.

9. Further, Sri Kambala Satish, S/o Narasimha Murthy, Managing Partner of Anasuya Boat Builders, Tallarevu Village, East Godavari District was examined on 18.05.2017. He informed that:
   i. He established Anasuya Boat Builders & Furniture's in Tallarevu village in 1997 and constructed the boats in Aadharana Padhakam and supplied to various fishermen.
   ii. He renounced his business and he lives on doing tourism packages.
   iii. He had neither submitted any quotation nor signed in the quotation to the Forest Department and he had not done any service to the Forest Department.
   iv. As he is technical person, he would say that the rate for the old engine boat would be about 2.0 to 2.5 lakh and new engine rate would be about 4.5 lakh. He also stated that Rs.7.75 lakhs mentioned in the quotation on his firm name shown by Vigilance Department Officials is on higher side.

Allegation- 4:

The Forest Officials have drawn money by producing fraud bills with self made bill books by purchasing substandard quality material including

purchase of fishing nets and Ice boxes supplied to the fishermen and grabbed the developmental funds of UNDP (United Nations Development Programme).

1. In addition to the above, it is also noticed that as a part of Community Development purpose under UNDP funds, the Forest Department Officials have sanctioned for purchasing of fishing nests through Eco Development Committees and the funds were transferred to joint account of concerned EDCs. The nets and ropes were purchased from M/s. Polasanapalli & Co, Kakinada who is the authorized dealer of Garaware products in Kakinada. Instead of procuring the material by obtaining quotations or on tender basis, the Forest Department Officials ignored the procedure and deposited amounts into concerned EDC accounts to facilitate the EDC members for purchase of fishing nests and Garaware ropes, etc. duly sanctioning the estimates.
2. The amounts were sanctioned by the Forest Department Officials for various EDCs and the amounts were paid to M/s. Polasanipalli & Co., Kakinada through cheques from the account of the EDC.
3. As per CAMPA guidelines under item no. 5.1, Section 105 of G.O.Ms. No.2, dt.07.01.2014, the DFO is empowered for passing bills for making payment on account of work done or supplies made by the contractor / piece workers above Rs. 50,000/- value. But the EDCs and FSO issued the cheques beyond their powers of payment, violating the above instructions. Further, in case of Sri Sangameswara EDC, Chollangi, Snanalarevu an excess payment of Rs. 82,000/- over and above the sanctioned amount was paid without any approval.
4. Sri Peruri Venkata Jagannadha Rao, Managing Partner of M/s. Polasanapalli & Co., Kakinada informed that he had supplied the material worth Rs.9,72,000/- to various EDCs during 2015 towards 1,935 kgs of Fishing net Fabrics and 798.5 kgs of Rope after obtaining the cheques from concerned EDCs in advance and encashing the same through his Andhra Bank Account no. 0301011003396 and Kakinada SBI Port Branch Account no. 35169041923.

From the above, it is obvious that there is no similarity in the above works and that he is responsible for the mischief, fabrication and fraudulent activities and that the charged officer herein has get drawn the amounts by submitting false bills and fabricated the old boats by repairing and painting it as new one and also committed irregularities in purchasing of fishing nests and Ropes violating the existing procedure and made the excess payments. **Hence, the charge.**

ARTICLE OF CHARGE – IV:

"That he had failed to check measure the works violating Section 102 (3) of G.O.Ms.No.2, dt.07-01-2004 and released the payments thereof.

Basis of the Charge:-

As per existing procedure, funds allocated to the Forest Department for execution of works should comply with the Rules and regulations stipulated under A.P. Forest Department code, guidelines of A.P. State CAMPA, other GOs and Circular instructions issued from time to time. But, the Delinquent Officer herein had totally deviated the procedure in getting the works executed and he failed to monitor the works and procedure of accounting system so for resulting there is huge loss to the Government Exchequer. The Charged Officer has failed to check measure at least 30% value of the above works violating the Section 102 (3) of the A.P.F.D Code and G.O.Ms.No.2 EFS&T (For. III) Dept, dt. 07.01.2004. Hence, the Charged Officer has totally failed to monitor and inspect the works and thereby, he is responsible for

tampering and fabrication of record and misappropriation of funds in the above works executed in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary of Wildlife Management Range, Kakinada of WLM Division, Rajamahendravaram. **Hence, the charge**.

Accordingly, the Charged Officer has violated the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and general duties and responsibilities of Forest Officer under Section 148 of A.P. Forest Department Code failed to attend the legitimate duties and responsibilities of Divisional Forest Officer as envisaged under Section 151 of A.P. Forest Department Code and other guidelines of A.P. State CAMPA and other GOs and Circular instructions issued from time to time. Thus, the Charged Officer with above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, discipline, devotion to duty, impartiality and a sense of propriety and behaved in a manner which is unbecoming of a Government servant or derogatory to the prestige of Government, thereby contravened Rule-3 of the A.P.C.S (Conduct) Rules, 1964. **Hence, the Articles of Charges**".

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

6392530/2022/SEC-IV-EFS01

ANNEXURE – III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI V.PRABHAKARA RAO, ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, EARLIER DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM OF RAJAHMUNDRY CIRCLE ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

1) Director General (V&E) & E.O. Prl. Secretary to Govt., G.A.D (V&E) Dept., Govt. of A.P, Vigilance report no.49 (C.no.1594/V&E/NR.1/2016, dated 10.10.2018

2)Memo.No.4682/Sec.IV/A1/2018-2, EFS & T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 14.11.2018.

3)Memo.No.4682/Sec.IV/A1/2018-3, EFS & T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 14.11.2018.

4)Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur Ref.No. EFS02-19024/75/2018-Vig-1, dated 02.12.2018.

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

6392530/2022/SEC-IV-EFS01

ANNEXURE – IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI V. PRABHAKARA RAO, ASST. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, EARLIER DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM OF RAJAHMUNDRY CIRCLE ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

The concerned officials of the Vigilance and Enforcement Department of Rajamahendravaram unit who have inspected the works in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary of Wildlife Management Range, Kakinada of WLM Division, Rajamahendravaram.

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER